Amendments To The Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) Drive device ~~(1)~~ for the adjustment of an actuating element ~~(2)~~ of a throttle, valve, connection device, dosage feed device or similar device, in particular in the production~~mining~~ of ~~mineral~~ oil or ~~natural~~ gas, the drive device comprising:

~~with~~ at least one spindle drive ~~(3)~~ movably connected to the actuating element ~~(2)~~ and a gear unit arranged between the spindle drive and at least one motor ~~(4, 5),~~;

~~characterised in that~~

the gear unit exhibiting~~exhibits~~ a reduction gear ~~(7)~~ assigned to the spindle drive ~~(3), in particular a so-called harmonic drive gear~~, and a spur gear ~~(9)~~ assigned to the motor ~~(4, 5) and in particular self-locking~~.

2. (currently amended) Drive device according to Claim 1,

~~wherein~~ ~~characterised in that~~

the spindle drive ~~(3)~~ is a recirculating roller or ball spindle drive with a spindle nut ~~(10)~~ and threaded spindle ~~(11)~~.

3. (currently amended) Drive device according to Claim ~~1 or~~ 2,

~~wherein~~ ~~characterised in that~~

the spindle nut ~~(10)~~ is supported rotationally, but axially immovably in a device housing ~~(42)~~.

4. (currently amended) Drive device according to claim 2~~one of the previous Claims~~,

~~wherein~~ ~~characterised in that~~

the spindle nut ~~(10)~~ is supported rotationally rigidly, but axially movably in a device housing ~~(42)~~.

5. (currently amended) Drive device according to claim 2~~one of the previous Claims~~,

~~wherein~~ ~~characterised in that~~

the spindle nut ~~(10)~~ or threaded spindle ~~(11)~~ is rotationally rigidly connected to the reduction gear ~~(7)~~.

6. (currently amended) Drive device according to claim 1~~one of the previous Claims~~,

——— whereincharacterised in that

———the reduction gear (7) exhibits as a harmonic drive gear a flexible, cup-shaped toothed sleeve (12), a fixed ring element (13) and a wave generator (14), whereby the toothed sleeve (12) partially engages the inner teeth of the ring element (13) with its outer teeth and the wave generator (14) is arranged inside the toothed sleeve.

7. (currently amended) Drive device according to claim 6one of the previous Claims,

——— whereincharacterised in that

———the toothed sleeve (12) is rotationally rigidly connected to the spindle nut (10) or the threaded spindle (11).

8. (currently amended) Drive device according to claim 6one of the previous Claims,

——— whereincharacterised in that

———a rotationally supported, but axially immovable connecting sleeve (15) is arranged between the toothed sleeve (12) and the spindle drive (6).

9. (currently amended) Drive device according to claim 8one of the previous Claims,

——— whereincharacterised in that

———the threaded spindle (11) is rotationally rigidly inserted with its drive end (16) into a retention hole (17) of the connecting sleeve (15).

10. (currently amended) Drive device according to claim 9one of the previous Claims,

——— whereincharacterised in that

———splines (19) are formed between the threaded spindle (11) and the inner side (18) of the retention hole (17).

11. (currently amended) Drive device according to claim 1one of the previous Claims,

——— whereincharacterised in that

———the spur gear (9) is helically toothed.

12. (currently amended) Drive device according to claim 1one of the previous Claims,

——— whereincharacterised in that

———the spur gear (9) is formed as a double helical gear (23).

13. (currently amended) Drive device according to claim 6~~one of the previous Claims~~, ~~——~~ wherein~~characterised in that~~ ~~——~~the reduction gear ~~(7)~~ and in particular its wave generator ~~(14)~~ are movably connected to a first spiral toothed gear wheel ~~(20)~~ and the motor ~~(4, 5)~~ to a second spiral toothed gear wheel ~~(21)~~ of the spur gear ~~(9)~~.

14. (currently amended) Drive device according to claim 13~~one of the previous Claims~~, ~~——~~ wherein~~characterised in that~~ ~~——~~the second spiral toothed gear wheel ~~(21)~~ is arranged on a drive shaft ~~(22)~~ of the motor ~~(4, 5)~~.

15. (currently amended) Drive device according to claim 14~~one of the previous Claims~~, ~~——~~ wherein~~characterised in that~~ ~~——~~two or more motors ~~(4, 5)~~ are assigned to the drive shaft ~~(22)~~.

16. (currently amended) Drive device according to claim 2~~one of the previous Claims~~, ~~——~~ wherein~~characterised in that~~ ~~——~~two or more drive shafts ~~(22)~~ each with at least one motor ~~(4, 5)~~ are essentially supported in parallel to the threaded spindle ~~(11)~~ in the device housing ~~(42)~~.

17. (currently amended) Drive device according to claim 16~~one of the previous Claims~~, ~~——~~ wherein~~characterised in that~~ ~~——~~a second spiral toothed gear wheel ~~(21)~~, which engages the first spiral toothed gear wheel ~~(20)~~, is arranged on each drive shaft ~~(22)~~.

18. (currently amended) Drive device according to claim 1~~one of the previous Claims~~, ~~——~~ wherein~~characterised in that~~ ~~——~~each motor ~~(4, 5)~~ is an electric motor.

19. (currently amended) Drive device according to claim 13~~one of the previous Claims~~, ~~——~~ wherein~~characterised in that~~ ~~——~~a helix angle ~~(25)~~ of the helical tooth arrangement ~~(24)~~ of the first and / or second spiral toothed gear wheel ~~(20, 21)~~ lies in the range from 50° to about 90° and in particular in the range from 65° to 85°.

20. (currently amended) Drive device according to claim 1~~one of the previous Claims~~, ~~wherein characterised in that~~ ~~the~~ the transmission ratio of the spur gear ~~(9)~~ is between i=25 and i<1.

21. (currently amended) Drive device according to claim 13~~one of the previous Claims~~, ~~wherein characterised in that~~ ~~the~~ the first and second spiral toothed gear wheel ~~(20, 21)~~ exhibit 1 to 10, preferably 1 to 7 and especially preferred 1 to 4 teeth.

22. (currently amended) Drive device according to claim 8~~one of the previous Claims~~, ~~wherein characterised in that~~ ~~the~~ the connecting sleeve ~~(15)~~ is releasably connected at its end ~~(26)~~ facing away from the spindle drive ~~(3)~~ to the toothed sleeve ~~(12)~~.

23. (currently amended) Drive device according to claim 2~~one of the previous Claims~~, ~~wherein characterised in that~~ ~~the~~ at least one engaging element ~~(27)~~ protrudes essentially radially outwards from the threaded spindle ~~(11)~~ or the spindle nut ~~(10)~~ and engages slots ~~(28, 29)~~ of a fixed sleeve ~~(30)~~ and a rotating sleeve ~~(31)~~, whereby a first slot ~~(28)~~ extends essentially in the axial direction ~~(38)~~ and a second slot ~~(29)~~ extends at an acute angle to the first slot ~~(28)~~.

24. (currently amended) Drive device according to claim 23~~one of the previous Claims~~, ~~wherein characterised in that~~ ~~the~~ the actuating element ~~(2)~~ can be rotated together with the rotating sleeve ~~(31)~~.

25. (currently amended) Drive device according to claim 1~~one of the previous Claims~~, ~~wherein characterised in that~~ ~~the~~ a position sensor ~~(32)~~ is assigned to an~~the~~ axially movable part ~~(10, 11)~~ of the spindle drive ~~(3)~~.

26. (currently amended) Drive device according to claim 1~~one of the previous Claims~~, ~~wherein characterised in that~~ ~~the~~ a position sensor ~~(32)~~ is assigned to a~~the~~ rotating part ~~(10, 11)~~ of the spindle drive ~~(3)~~.

27. (currently amended) Drive device according to claim 2~~one of the previous Claims~~, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein ~~a~~the position sensor ~~(32) exhibits~~includes an essentially flat code carrier ~~(33)~~, which is offset radially outwards with respect to the threaded spindle ~~(11)~~ and arranged parallel to it.

28. (currently amended) Drive device according to claim 27~~one of the previous Claims~~, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein ~~a~~the dog ~~(34)~~ is arranged between ~~an~~the axially movable part ~~(10, 11)~~ of the spindle drive ~~(3)~~, in particular between its engaging element ~~(27)~~ and the code carrier ~~(33)~~.

29. (currently amended) Drive device according to claim 4~~one of the previous Claims~~, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein a distance sleeve ~~(35)~~ is arranged in a motor hole ~~(36)~~ of the device housing ~~(42)~~ on a side, facing away from ~~a~~the spiral toothed gear wheel ~~(21)~~, of the at least one motor ~~(4, 5)~~.

30. (currently amended) Drive device according to claim 4~~one of the previous Claims~~, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the device housing ~~(42)~~ is of modular construction.

31. (currently amended) Drive device according to claim 27~~one of the previous Claims~~, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the code carrier ~~(33)~~ is guided in the axial direction ~~(38)~~ in a guide sleeve ~~(37)~~.

32. (currently amended) Drive device according to claim 3~~one of the previous Claims~~, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the threaded spindle ~~(11)~~ and the spindle nut ~~(10)~~ are supported together rotationally in the device housing ~~(42)~~.

33. (currently amended) Drive device according to claim 2~~one of the previous Claims~~, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the threaded spindle ~~(11)~~ is releasably connected at its end ~~(39)~~ facing away from the spindle nut ~~(10)~~ to a sliding rod ~~(40)~~ of the actuating element ~~(2)~~.

34. (currently amended) Drive device according to claim 27~~one of the previous Claims~~, ~~——~~ wherein~~characterised in that~~ ~~——~~the code carrier ~~(33)~~ of the position sensor ~~(32)~~ is inserted at least with one end section in an internal hole ~~(41)~~ of the threaded spindle ~~(11)~~ and is releasably attached there for common movement of the code carrier and threaded spindle in the axial direction ~~(38)~~.

35. (currently amended) Drive device according to claim 8~~one of the previous Claims~~, ~~——~~ wherein~~characterised in that~~ ~~——~~the spindle nut ~~(10)~~ and the connecting sleeve ~~(15)~~ are releasably connected to one another.

36. (new) Drive unit according to claim 1 wherein the reduction gear assigned to the spindle drive is a harmonic drive gear.

37 (new) Drive unit according to claim 1 wherein the spur gear assigned to the motor is self-locking.